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## **Opinion: From Meghan to Greta, our 'woke' liberal elite is trapped in an archaic universe**

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

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Web Edition

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**Section:** FULL COMMENT

**Length:** 1089 words

### **Body**

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Viewpoint

Among the most sanctimonious myths of our time is the one that, in a BBC gospel drawl, describes Leave voters as "left behind". The lost souls of this country are, in fact, our bewildered liberal elite. Take the Duchess of Sussex's decision to edit( <https://nationalpost.com/news/world/breaking-barriers-guest-editing-british-vogue-meghan-reveals-the-women-she-admires> ) next month's Vogue magazine. The act in itself is, of course, an error: this metropolitan bible of gaunt aspiration, pored over with miserable reverence in hair salons across the nation, is one of Britain's most retrograde luxury brands. But worse still is the edition's cover, which celebrates 15 women who are "trailblazing change-makers, united by their fearlessness in breaking barriers".

As suggested by the air-whipping rush of an empty blurb, the selection of females is depthlessly "woke". It is an uncomfortable non-coincidence that most of the choices happen to be both ethnic minority models or actors, and mediocre "change-makers". One can only deduce that this problem has arisen because the selections were made on the premise that achievement is un compelling unless it can be adjectived by exotic origins (Somali female boxer; black ballerina) and comes with a marketable Instagram following.

( [https://www.instagram.com/p/B0fpHFfh\\_Hp/](https://www.instagram.com/p/B0fpHFfh_Hp/) )

British Vogue . September 2019 #forcesforchange . . . @FrankieGoesToHayward wearing: @Loewe coat, @NicholasKirkwood boots, @Falke socks . . . A dream to be photographed by @TheRealPeterLindbergh, and work with such a legendary team . Fashion editor @Edward\_Enninfel, with hair by @SergeNormant, make-up by @TheValGarland and nails by @LorraineVGriffin ?? @britishvogue thank you( [https://www.instagram.com/p/B0fpHFfh\\_Hp/](https://www.instagram.com/p/B0fpHFfh_Hp/) )

A post shared by Francesca Hayward( <https://www.instagram.com/frankiegoestohayward/> ) (@frankiegoestohayward) on Jul 29, 2019 at 1:44am PDT

But the oddest thing about the cover is how it transports us, in a soft Californian hand clasp, to a strangely archaic parallel universe. In this ghoulish place - trapped somewhere between the Kings Road during the Summer of Love of '67 and the American Deep South - everyone is defined by their race, and fame-ravaged celebrities yearning for a spiritual calling are boundary-pushing "campaigners".

This handout issued on July 28, 2019 by Kensington Palace shows the cover of British Vogue's September issue, entitled "Forces for Change", which is guest edited by Meghan, Duchess of Sussex.

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Such an imagined reality is not just blighted by gaping inconsistencies (for example, a fixation with race is not racist if your mission is to empower minorities), it is completely oblivious to the facts of the world today. Our new PM has just appointed a Home Secretary and a Chancellor who just so happen to be of Asian ancestry. Middle England, supposedly corroded with "unconscious bias", did not so much as blink over these excellent appointments, viewing Sajid Javid as a competent pair of hands for no deal and Priti Patel as the new Norman Tebbit. Not that the elite have any interest in the Right's progress towards a colour-blind meritocratic utopia. They are too dazzled by kaleidoscopic tokenism, and too fond of uttering words like "diversity" and "woman of colour" to take notice.

Liberal attitudes to conserving the environment are similarly antiquated. In the pages of Vogue, Prince Harry has made a Malthusian pledge to help save the planet by only having two children. This worrying celebrity trend is ultimately rooted in a mathematically flawed 18th-century theory of Thomas Malthus, and a somewhat airbrushed interpretation of China's 37-year dabble in social engineering. Naturally the movement is being spearheaded by that crumpling-voiced prophet of imminent world collapse, Sir David Attenborough (patron of Population Matters, which campaigns for a clampdown on the world birth rate).

The sailboat Malizia II, shown on July 28, 2019, will transport **climate activist** Greta Thunberg from Britain to the United States, leaving in mid-August.

Meanwhile, eco-warrior Greta Thunberg (who obviously made the Vogue top 15) has announced that she will sail to New York for the UN climate summit on a zero-carbon racing boat, sponsored by the Yacht Club de Monaco and owned by a German property tycoon.

Ms Thunberg's green solutions are regressive. She desires total elimination of carbon emissions by 2025, even though such an endeavour would cause world economic collapse. This latest venture, which vulgarly combines super-rich lifestyle advertising with the impotent modern activist's weakness for pointless stunts, only highlights further that Leftie campaigners can offer us no practical solutions. Cutting-edge scientists, not woolly liberals, are the ones really taking on the challenge of saving the planet. British innovators driven by capitalism are already immersed in game-changing green research, in areas ranging from lab-grown meat to electric planes.

Teen activist Greta Thunberg to reach UN climate summit in New York on a racing yacht(  
<https://nationalpost.com/news/world/teen-activist-greta-thunberg-to-reach-un-climate-summit-in-new-york-on-a-racing-yacht>)

'Breaking barriers': Guest-editing British Vogue, Meghan reveals the women she admires(  
<https://nationalpost.com/news/world/breaking-barriers-guest-editing-british-vogue-meghan-reveals-the-women-she-admires>)

But the prize of tragic lost liberal luvvie of the week must go to Alastair Campbell. The man who invented synthetic spin-doctored centrist "modernity" declared on Tuesday that he no longer wishes to be a Labour member, after being suspended from the party earlier this year. His politically homeless status as his movement slowly self-destructs carries powerful symbolism. How ironic that the master of triangulating should attack Jeremy Corbyn so passionately for his Brexit triangulation. The arch defender of the Remain status quo is so terrified of change that he has forsaken the strategic philosophy with which he took the political world by storm.

Clearly, then, in a fast-moving world, our bamboozled elite possess neither the optimistic big-picture vision nor the practical skills to analyse and solve the big issues. And so they have retreated into a fantasy world in which they are the moral figureheads and enlightened revolutionaries of an otherwise ignorant, bigoted society. But as a new dawn is ushered in, such lack of self-awareness can only condemn them to further irrelevance. !@COPYRIGHT=© 2019 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

## Classification

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